

Testimony
of
THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY
Before
The ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Re
RAISED SENATE BILL 567
AN ACT CONCERNING HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT
February 19, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Reed and members of the Energy and Technology Committee. My name is Patrick McDonnell and I am the Director of Conservation and Load Management for The United Illuminating Company (“UI”). I am here today to testify on **Proposed Senate Bill 567 – AN ACT CONCERNING HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS.**

The Proposed Bill’s concept would require that the Home Energy Solutions Program (HES) have at least one HES vendor in each county in the state. We believe that the bill is trying to solve a problem that does not exist and will expend funds that would be better used in providing the HES program services to energy consumers.

The bill seeks to assure uniform HES coverage across the State of Connecticut, but we have concerns with the Bill as drafted. The main issue we foresee is that the Bill will create additional administrative expenses for a program that is working well as it is currently operating. All the vendors participating in HES program are currently selected through a competitive solicitation.

All the vendors that participate in the bidding must meet certain qualifications to be eligible to participate in HES. That ensures quality services for consumers. The qualifications, coupled with competitive bidding, create a process that yields the lowest possible costs for the services for the most qualified vendors for those services, regardless of which county they call home. Under the limited provisions of the proposed bill it may be necessary to conduct separate solicitations in each county. This will likely add additional administrative expense to the program. However, it may not necessarily provide better services for consumers. The electric distribution companies require all of our vendors to offer the HES services statewide, regardless of their physical location within the state. A business can be located in a County based on a very limited physical presence in that county, which may provide little to no benefit to the residents of that County,

We would like to suggest that to ensure wider statewide coverage, the best way would be to require the Energy Conservation Management Board to include as part of their annual report to the Legislature the distribution of Home Energy Solutions participants by County. The Board and the EDCs could then compare the data to the county-specific demographic data and determine whether or not we achieved statewide coverage for the program. We could then determine if there needs to be any adjustment to the competitive bidding / solicitation of program vendors.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

